

drying step and the rewetting step of the rewet casting method. As described in paragraph 0022, sheet gloss, smoothness and print gloss are improved by the present invention.

Applicants consider that the present invention is not obvious over: D1-D2 in view of D3-D6; and D7, because none of D1-D7 describe conducting a smoothing step between the first drying step and the rewetting step in the rewet casting method.

Attached is a copy of page 5 of the November 16, 2010 Amendment.

The above comments and interview summary provided by the examiner include the substance of the interview. This statement is made under MPEP §713.04.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

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Surface Treatment

In addition to the above, the claims are also amended to specify that the claimed invention includes a step of smoothing the dried layer between the drying step and the rewetting step. The advantage of this technical feature is described as follows:

"In the present invention, sheet gloss, print gloss and other properties are improved by smoothing the coating layer before it is rewetted with a rewetting solution." ([0011])

"the dried coated paper is preferably subjected to a surface-treatment such as smoothing to improve sheet gloss, smoothness and print gloss or the like ..." ([0022])

On the other hand, none of the cited references describes smoothing a coated layer between the drying step and the rewetting step of the rewet casting method. Thus, the claimed invention is not obvious over D1-D2 (the primary references) in view of D3-D6 (secondary references), because a person skilled in the art could not readily have arrived at the claimed invention by combining D1-D2 and D3-D6. Also, a person skilled in the art could not readily have arrived at the claimed invention from D7 (WO 03/056101).

In this regard, the Examiner states in the Advisory Action that cast-coated papers *"...are made using the same materials and procedures."* However, none of the references describes that a cast-coated paper is obtained by the "rewet casting method" including smoothing the coating layer between the drying step and the rewetting step. Thus, the same procedures as those of the cited inventions are not employed in the claimed invention.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner also states, *"It is suggested to applicants to ... point out unexpected results."* As is explained above, the specification states clearly the advantage of the process of the amended claims in paragraphs [0011] and [0022], which is demonstrated by the working examples of the present specification.

Gloss of the Web After Drying and Before Rewetting

The claims as above amended define the gloss of the web after drying and before rewetting. The technical feature of a sheet gloss of 70% or more shows the extent of the smoothing step.

None of the references describes this technical feature, and thus, the claimed invention is not obvious over a combination of D1-D2 and D3-D6; and over D7.